



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER

William H. Webster was born March 6, 1924, in St. Louis, Missouri, and received his early education in Webster Groves near St. Louis. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1947, where, in 1975, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Judge Webster received his Juris Doctor degree from Washington University Law School, St. Louis, Missouri, in 1949. He served as a lieutenant in the United States Navy in World War II and again in the Korean War.

A practicing attorney with a St. Louis law firm from 1949 to 1959, Judge Webster served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri from 1960 to 1961. He returned to private practice in 1961. From 1964 to 1969, he was a member of the Missouri Board of Law Examiners.

In 1970, Judge Webster was appointed a Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri and in 1973 was elevated to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He resigned on February 23, 1978, to become Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. During his service on the bench, Judge Webster was Chairman of the Judiciary Conference Advisory Committee on the Criminal Rules and was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Habeas Corpus and the Committee of Court Administration.

A member of the American Bar Association, the Council of The American Law Institute, the Order of the Coif, the Missouri Bar Integrated, and the Metropolitan St. Louis Bar Association, Judge Webster served as Chairman of the Corporation, Banking and Business Law Section of the American Bar Association, and is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

In 1972, Judge Webster received a Washington University Alumni Citation for contributions to the field of law and, in 1977, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Washington University Law School. A member of the Board of Trustees of Washington University, the University of Colorado Law School Board of Visitors and the National Advisory Board of the American University, Judge Webster holds honorary degrees from DePauw University, William Woods College, Drury College, Washington University, Columbia College, University of Dayton School of Law, University of Notre Dame, Centre College, Dickinson School of Law, University of Miami, DePaul University, The American University, and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Judge Webster was named Man of the Year, 1980, by the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, and in May, 1981, received the William Greenleaf Elliott Award from Washington University, and the Riot Relief Fund Award in New York City. In October, 1982, he was presented the Fordham Law School Louis Stein Award, and in August, 1983, the International Platform Association Theodore Roosevelt Award for excellence in public service. In June, 1984, he received the Jefferson Award for the Greatest Public Service by an Elected or Appointed Official. In May, 1985, he was presented the Freedoms Foundation National Service Medal in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and the First Annual Patrick V. Murphy Award from the Police Foundation, Washington, D.C., for distinguished service in law enforcement. He was named Father of the Year for Public Service in May, 1986, by the National Father's Day Committee, and received the 1986 Thomas Jefferson Award in Law from the University of Virginia.

Judge Webster was elected to active membership in the National Academy of Public Administration in October, 1981, and in May, 1985, became President of the Institute of Judicial Administration.

Judge Webster was married to the late Drusilla Lane Webster and is the father of three children: Drusilla L. Busch, William H., Jr., and Katherine H. Roessle.